

Attachment C

National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative (NSHTI) - NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative will assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, or reducing nutrient or pesticide transport.

Note: The seasonal high tunnel practice is gaining recognition in many populated or urbanized areas. NRCS must consider and support all producers who submit an application regardless of where their operation is located. Applicants must obtain a farm and tract number. It is important to note that general program eligibility is not limited based on zoning. There is a common misconception that areas zoned as “urban” or “residential” (or other similar zoning types) are not eligible based on the zoning classification. However, while the applicant and land may meet program eligibility requirements, zoning may restrict a participant from installing certain practices. Participants who carry out conservation practices are responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, permits, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practices in keeping with the applicable laws and regulations.

The maximum practice extent for a Seasonal High Tunnel (798) eligible for a practice payment shall be five percent of an acre (2,178 square feet) per agricultural operation. This can be one or more structures, and one or more contracts, for a maximum of five percent of one acre coverage. If an applicant wishes to install a larger structure or a cumulative total that exceeds the 5% maximum a practice payment cap must be entered for the CIN in Protracts.

For the NSHTI, use the EQIP Special Initiatives or EQIP Special Initiatives HU payment schedule.

The NSHTI is eligible on **cropland only**. Forage crops grown in short term rotation is cropland as per the National Planning Procedures Handbook. Idaho guidance has defined a “short term rotation” as 4-5 yrs of a forage crop, followed by 2+ years of other crops including small grains, corn, beans, potatoes, etc. The land must have at least one year of crop history and be in compliance with HELC/WC provisions to be eligible. Newly broken sod is not eligible.

The following are the approved resource concerns available for the NSHTI:

Soil Erosion
Sheet and Rill

Soil Condition
Organic Matter Depletion

Water Quality
Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

Plant Condition
Plants not Adapted or Suited
Productivity, Health and Vigor

All Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative contracts must include the practice 798 – Seasonal Tunnel System for Crops. The supporting conservation practices offered within the initiative are considered complimentary to address the resource concerns on the land where the seasonal high tunnel will be used. The following are the approved conservation practices available for the NSHTI:

Core Practice:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	798

Supporting Practices:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Critical Area Planting	342
Diversion	362
Grassed Waterway	412
Irrigation Reservoir	436
Irrigation System, Micro irrigation	441
Subsurface Drain	606
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607
Underground Outlet	620